

# THE L'PW3 SHEKEL

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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A Visit to the Jerusalem Mint

---

Coins of Alexander the Great

---

Shares of the Jewish Colonial Trust

---

AINA's Fourth Study Tour of Israel

---

Studio ROLI: Israeli Designers

---

Tea and Coffee Tokens

---

How Many Shekels to a Talent?

---

The Earliest History of Coins

---

Presentation Medals of Israel Listed

---

Coins of 602-610 AD Found in Haifa

---

Club News and Others

---

*See Table of Contents Page 1*

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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

*THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.*

*THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.*

*THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.*

*Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.*

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



There is only one way to convey to you the tempo and excitement of the Fourth Annual Study Tour to Israel beyond the photographs and words which appear in this issue of *The Shekel* and which have thrilled readers of the well read *Numismatic News* and

of *Coin World* whose publisher and wife were part of the touring group. That would be for you to join the Fifth Annual Tour which has already been scheduled for 1973.

Membership interest in this AINA project has been multiplied beyond all expectations. As further evidence, the number of repeat participants continues also to grow.

Needless to say then, we have already received a number of reservations for 1973's March tour. Since this will be Israel's 25th Anniversary Year, reserving the increased number of rooms in the deluxe hotels was itself a major project which involved on-



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

A Visit to the Mint at Jerusalem .....	2
Tetradrachms and Staters of Alexander the Great by Edward Janis ...	4
Jewish Colonial Trust Shares by Jack H. Fisher .....	8
Tokens of Israel from Collection in Illinois by Harry Flower .....	11
Largest AINA Group Sets New Tour Records (4th Annual Study Tour)	13
Jerusalem Diary by Dov Genachowski .....	16
Aleph Beth by Edward Janis .....	18
Judaean Jottings by Mel Wacks (Copies are Copied) .....	19
Weizmann Gold Coins Without Mem by Sylvia Haffner .....	20
Studio ROLI: A History .....	21
1972 Mintmarked Sets Released .....	24
Tea and Coffee Tokens of a Bus Company by Dov Genachowski ....	25
Club News .....	27
How Many Shekels to a Talent by Joseph Sporn .....	29
Earliest Coin History by Saul B. Needleman .....	30
Haffner Update of Presentation Medals .....	31
U. S. Team Finds Coins in Hebron .....	32
Israel Honors Aircraft Industry with Commemorative Coins	
	Inside Back Cover
Ancient Coins Found in Haifa Date to 602-610 AD .....	Back Cover

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*The Government Mint at Jerusalem is located in a modest plant facility within ten minutes by cab from the Old City.*

Weeks before American collectors even knew of its existence, members of the Fourth Annual AINA Study Tour were watching production of the *Israel Aviation* commemorative 10-pound coin in the Government Mint at Jerusalem.

The tour of the Mint facilities for production of both coins and stamps was a first-time-ever for an AINA group. Tour members actually stood by operating equipment making Israel's coinage, from one agorot coins to the sparkling new 1972 commemorative coins.

Following visits to the actual production rooms, the group enjoyed refreshments in the Mint's administrative offices. Samples were neither offered or accepted.

Interested tour members saw the actual dies, stamping machines, gloved hand procedures and wrapping care for the day's production run.

# A VISIT TO THE JERUSALEM MINT



*Coin dies*

## BIRTH OF THE ISRAEL 24th INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMEMORATIVE COIN



*At the stamping machine, the worker prepares stacks of planchets for 10-pound commemorative coins with gloved hands in the continuous effort to make each newly minted coin a perfect BU.*



*Newly minted agorot drop through the chute into the hand of a mint employee so that coins do not scar each other as they leave the press.*





*Newly minted commemorative coins then pass through the machine which edge marks each coin with the government identification. Cloth drop cloths prevent inadvertent nicks and coin bruises.*



*Stacks of the newly minted Israel Aviation coin awaiting packaging for the banks. Note the design which uses the slim body of an aircraft symbol as the numeral "one" against the "zero."*



*Morris Bram and mint directors Y. Tal (center) and Y. Raveh (right) hold first struck Israel Aviation coin issued for the 24th Anniversary.*

# TETRADRACHMS AND STATERS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

by Edward Janis



*Silver Tetradrachm, obverse and reverse, of Year 35 (312 B.C.); Series III.*

Back in his camp after the rout of Darius at Issus, Alexander the Great, twenty-four year old King of Macedonia, perhaps the greatest field general in history, mulled over his next course of action. To chase the Great King of the Persians to the east could possibly leave his rear vulnerable to attack from the Persian affiliated city-states of the Eastern Mediterranean and Egypt, even cutting his Dardanelles (Hellespont) passage back to Europe. Darius, with the help of friendly mountain tribes, could cut his land communications in the narrow bottleneck of Celaenae. Darius could wait.

Early in January 332 B.C., on Alexander's decision, the Macedonians marched south along the Mediterranean Sea. Out of hatred for Darius and the Persians, Tripolis, Byblos, Beirut surrendered and welcomed Alexander.

Twenty miles to the south, at Tyre, Alexander faced a seven month siege which was the longest and most demanding military operation of his entire career. During the siege, ever

mindful of his exposed southern flank threatened by Gaza and Egypt, Alexander dispatched a token force to the strategically located Phoenician sea-coast town of Ake. The populace, with an eye on gaining blockaded Tyre's shipping, welcomed the invaders. Ake was, after all, close to the road from Damaskos to Palestine.

Sometime later in the year, while the Tyre siege was still underway, Alexander opened a mint at Ake. Ake, the present Akko in Israel and Sidon in Lebanon are of special interest because of HUNDREDS of Alexander mints, only these two are dated.

With few exceptions, the coins of Ake were the gold stater and the silver tetradrachm and may be generally described as follows:

*Stater-Gold. Obv.-Head of Athena with griffin-adorned helmet to r. Rev.-Winged Nike standing, head l., holding wreath and stylis; on r. decending ALEXANDER (in Greek); in field, usually below r. wing the mint mark and date.*



*Tetradrachm-Silver. Head of young Herakles facing r. covered with lion skin headdress and lion's paws under chin. Rev. shows ALEXANDER (in Greek) in r. field; Zeus seated on throne to l.; his feet rest on stool; legs are parallel and draped to waist. He holds eagle in extended r. hand and rests l. arm on sceptre. Circle of dots surround both obv. and rev.*

A remarkable work, *The Dated Coinage of Sidon and Ake*, was written by Edward T. Newell and published by the Yale University Press in 1916. It is extremely rare. The issues were broken down into seven series and are explained in the accompanying chart. The mint marks and dates are easily identifiable by the novice. Phoenecian writing, like Hebrew, is read from *right to left*.

The coinage ran uninterrupted from circa 332-304 B.C. The dating starts in 326 with the Phoenecian date 20 and runs through 308 B.C. with the date 39. In her last four years of coinage (Series VII), Ake starting in 307 marks her dates with a new regnal date 8. The coinage ends with the year 11 in 304 B.C.

It was previously assumed prior to Newell's work that the dates on the Alexander issues of Ake have been the same as the Era of Alexander the Great taking its inception either with his accession to the Macedonian

throne in 336 or with his conquest of Phoenicia in 333-332 B.C.

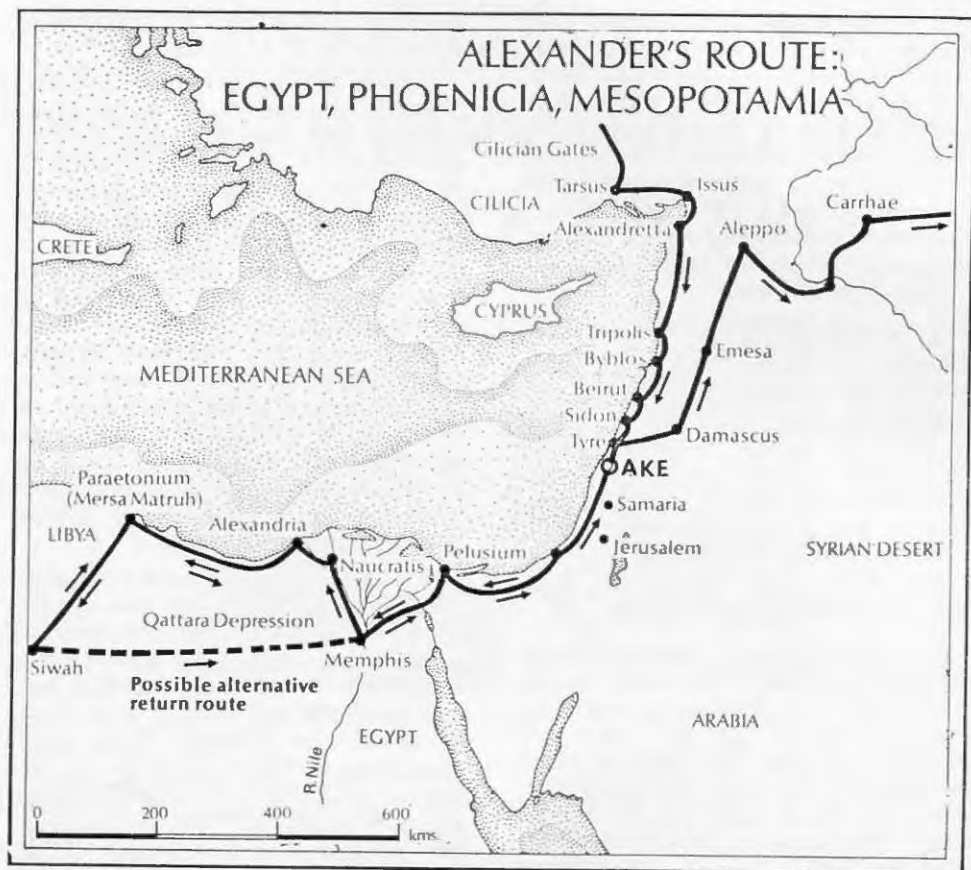
Newell proves how Ake followed Sidon in the use of the initial mint-mark in 330 and the use of the first two letters of the city name in 328. In 327, Sidon began to date her issues on the reverse with the Phoenician *Aleph, Beth*, etc. We learn that one of the Sidon obverse tetradrachm dies was also used at Ake. Tying this in together with the evidence of three hoards, especially the Saida Hoard, Newell concluded that all these studies favored an era which commenced in or around 347 B.C. and the most plausible explanation of the dates 20 to 39 is that they represent the regnal years of some local dynast whose reign commenced in 347 B.C.

The dates 8, 9, 10, and 11 follow AFTER year 39. Newell proved this by the use of identical obverse dies for years 39 and year 8. He further concluded that 39 fell about 308-307 and that year 39 and year 8 were contemporaneous. By counting back eight years from 307 B.C. we arrive at the summer of 315 B.C. for the new starting point of an era. This was the time that Antigonos, after disposing of his many rivals in Asia Minor, Syria, Babylon and the East turned his attention to the Satrap of Egypt, invaded Phoenicia, and took possession of her cities.

Phoenicia formed part of Antigonos' dominions and recognized him as



*Silver Tetradrachm, obverse and reverse, of year 327 B.C. (No date). Series III. Note superior centering and workmanship.*



ruler. By 307 B.C., when the new dating was commenced at Ake, Alexander the Great had been dead for over two years. It therefore followed that Ake adopted 315 B.C. as the starting point of a new regnal era. The mintage continued until the 11th year when, as it happened in Sidon, it came to an abrupt end. It is believed that the siege of Rhodes which commenced in the spring of 305 placed financial pressure on the mint of Ake and

caused the shutdown during the following year. Later when Tyre and Gaza rose under the prosperity of the Ptolemies, Ake fell back to her comparative insignificance.

Ah, but picture in your mind's eye, the glories and the scenes of the previous thirty years. With the fall of her two giant rivals, Tyre to the north and Gaza to the south, Ake prospered. All the precious goods of Inner Asia funneled through Ake to waiting ships.



*Gold Staters of AKE. To the right, two types of reverses. In the center, the AKE Stater of year 35 (312 B.C.)*



There is an anecdote told about the young prince Alexander who when offering sacrifice, scooped up two fistfuls of expensive incense to cast on the altar-fire. His tutor, Leonidas, grabbed his arms and sarcastically said to him, "When you've conquered the spice-regions, you can throw away all the incense you like. Until then, don't waste it."

Alexander never forgot. After he captured Gaza, the main spice center of the East, Alexander sent a gift of EIGHTEEN TONS of frankincense and myrrh to his old teacher with the admonition to cease being parsimo-





Alexander III Silver Tetradrachm of AKE

nious towards the gods. Imagine, if you will, the Arabian spice caravans waiting to put their cargo aboard at Ake and to be paid with the local gold and silver coin.

## HOW TO READ THE ALEXANDER COINAGE OF AKE

Series I, ca. 322-320 B.C.	Fulmar - 	the thunderbolt, Symbol of Zeus
	<b>M</b> under throne	Magistrates' Symbol
	<b>E</b> 	Magistrates' Symbol
Series II, ca. 329-328	<b>O</b>	Phoenician letter; first letter of city name 
Series III, ca. 327	<b>AO</b>	last two letters of city name
Series IV, ca. 326-321	<b>=AO</b>	Same plus dates 29 thru 32
Series V, ca. 321-317	<b>AO</b> <b>I III III =</b>	Better styles dates 26 thru 30
Series VI, ca. 316-308	<b>III III = 40</b>	Mintmark like OY not OK (backwards) dates 31 thru 39
Series VII, ca. 307-304	<b>III III 40</b> <b>II</b>	Dated years 9 - 11

### DATES

A horizontal line is 10. —  
One horizontal line over the other is 20. =  
A vertical line is one. |  
Vertical lines are usually in groups of three.  
Therefore, five is |||||  
Remember that we read, as in Hebrew, from your right to left. Eight is ||||| |||  
Thirty is a 20 = plus a 10 — or — =  
The year 35 is expressed || ||| — =  
It may be on two lines, as — || |||  
On a few coins in the later years we find in rare cases, the symbol  being used for 10 instead of —  
The year 39 (308 B.C.) appears as  = |||||

### EXAMPLES

**AO** AKE mint year 327 (No date after m/m).

**II = AO** AKE mint year 23 equals 323 B.C.

**III III || 40** AKE mint year 9 equals 306 B.C.

Mintmark and Date appear together. In the tetradrachms it is under the right hand of Zeus in the left field. In the gold staters, it is usually, but not necessarily, in the right field under the left wing of Nike.

## THE JEWISH COLONIAL TRUST SHARES OF GRANDFATHER MAX FISHER

by Jack H. Fisher  
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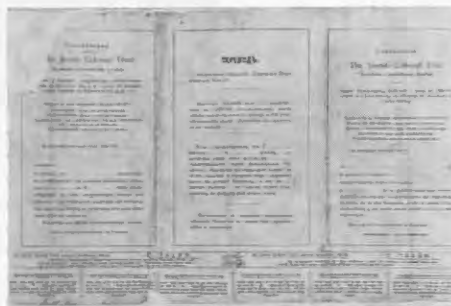


Max Fisher at 36 years of age, left Edkun, Prussia, in 1890 with his wife, Jennie, and five children, Lena, Harry, Jack, George and Herman, for the United States. Life in Prussia for him and his family was no longer religiously, socially and economically such that he could personally tolerate conditions. Further, he had the desire to provide a more wholesome life and future for himself with opportunities for his children.

He arrived in the United States without fanfare or special notice, as one of many thousands of other European immigrants of the Jewish faith with trust, hope and optimism in the promises of a life of religious freedom, dignity and opportunity in the United States. He had a firm belief in the words *life, liberty and pursuit of happiness*. He encountered the problems of adjustment as most immigrants; he did not speak English, was not familiar with American customs and, without any capital, special training or skill, had to work hard and long hours to support his family in Chicago, Illinois.

### Ten Years Later

Ten years following his arrival in the United States, his family had grown to include two more children, Marvin and Herbert. He had found his dream of religious freedom a reality and his children had the advantages of being educated in the public schools of Chicago. He did not forget those



less fortunate European Jews still stranded in Europe, and from his modest income, and in spite of the laways present family financial needs, he made regular contributions to help other less fortunate Jews achieve the freedom and opportunities that he had found a reality in the United States.

In this same period, Dr. Theodor Herzl and 19 other well-known Jewish men as *The Council*, in 1899 founded The Jewish Colonial Trust (*Juedische Colonia Bank*) Limited with a capital-



ization of 2,000,000 shares at a subscription price of One Pound Sterling each. 100 of such shares were designated as Founders Shares and 1,999,990 shares were designated as ordinary shares to be sold to subscribers.

My father, Herman Fisher, delivered to me the papers of Max Fisher, my grandfather, who died in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1933; in the papers of Max Fisher there was found certificates dated February 19, 1901, numbered 130856 and 130857 of the ordinary shares of the Jewish Colonial Trust issued to Max Fisher. The desire to learn about the Jewish Colonial Trust and the basis for my grandfather to purchase two shares at a personal sacrifice to himself and his large family resulted in my questioning older members of my family. Since they could provide me with no information, I then wrote to my friend, David Atsmony, of Tel Aviv, Israel, for information and assistance.

#### Founded in 1899

Mr. Atsmony wrote that the Jewish Colonial Trust was founded in 1899 after being resolved by the *First Zionist Congress*, and he further stated that it was the "first Jewish National Financial Institution in the world" with its purpose to settle Jews in "Israel." He further wrote that "the shares were the first in the world with text in Hebrew," and that most of the purchasers of the shares were the "Jews of East and Middle Europe who looked at the shares as a ray of hope for an Independent Palestine." The shares were expensive for the Jews to purchase inasmuch as most of the Jews were poor and the purchase price of One Pound Sterling per share was equal to Ten Roubles. He reported that Jews all over saved their money and purchased these shares with enthusiasm. Over 250,000 shares were purchased in the first year of issue. He remembered as a small boy in the Ukraine of individuals in his village exhibiting their shares with pride and hope for the future. He reported that

he has also had the opportunity to subsequently see some of these shares in Tel Aviv.

The Jewish Colonial Trust (*Juedische Colonial Bank*) Limited established the Anglo-Palestine Company in Palestine as the first national bank of the Jews, with the Jewish Colonial Trust being dissolved in 1934, with all of its activities incorporated into the Anglo-Palestine Company, later changed to the Anglo-Palestine Bank.

*I am most grateful to Mr. David Atsmony for the information pertaining to the shares of the Jewish Colonial Trust located by me in the papers of my own grandfather, and it is my desire to share this information with other collectors and researchers. It is a self-evident truth that the Max Fishers of the world had a dream and a hope which they shared with each other in the constructive desire to bring forth their dream to a reality. These shares of the Jewish Colonial Trust have brought me a little closer to my grandfather and his generation. It is another link in a long history with historical and numismatic importance.*

This prompted me to learn more about the Jewish Colonial Trust. It was founded with the following stated purpose as set forth in its prospectus, to-wit:

*"To promote, develop, work and carry on the colonization schemes in the East, by preference in Palestine and Syria, and further promote, develop, work, and carry on industries and undertakings in Palestine, Syria, or in any other part of the world."*

Dr. Herzl and Mr. Gottheil, who were on the council of the bank, had much correspondence back and forth pertaining to the sale of the shares. Dr. Herzl in reference to the Zionist movement stated in one such letter a reference to the sale of shares of stock: "*Our movement stands or fails with it.*" My grandfather, Max Fisher, with his faith was the subscriber of two such shares.



The Jewish Colonial Trust was involved in many difficulties. It was reported that of the authorized capital of 2,000,000 Pounds Sterling only 395,330 Pounds Sterling was actually issued.

The business operations of the bank were also disappointing. Heavy financial losses were suffered during World War II due to unfortunate investments, and difficulties also overtook the Trust due to the 1929 Depression. The actual existence of the Trust was prejudiced. The Executives of the Zionist Organization finally decided to transfer all of the affairs of the Trust to its subsidiary, the Anglo-Palestine Bank Ltd.

The affairs of the Trust were taken over by the Anglo-Palestine Bank on or about January 1934; the Trust commenced the process of liquidation of matters which had no positive and direct relationship to Palestine. The Trust then served only as a holding company for the stock of the Bank.

I became curious as to whether or not the two shares of the Trust purchased by my grandfather had any current value. Correspondence with *Otzar Hityashvuth Hayehudim Jewish Colonial Trust* resulted in the following reply:

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter dated May 6, 1970, concerning 2 shares in our company, we would inform you that in accordance with our capital re-organization scheme, we have reduced our capital to shares of 2/6d each, and are repaying this capital to our shareholders by the distribution of five Israel Pounds (IL.5) stock in the new Israeli Company called *Otzar Hityashvuth Hayehudim B.M.*, for each share held in our company.

The coupons attached to the said certificates are of no value, as our Company has not paid any dividends since 1922, and all uncollected dividends were declared forfeit in 1932 in accordance with our Articles of Association. However, the new Company is paying dividends and unclaimed amounts are held in trust by the J.C.T. Trust Company Ltd. The amount due in respect of the IL.5 Stock in accordance with the valuation of assets as per 31st March, 1970, was IL.15.84 or U.S. \$4.52.

The new stock is traded on the Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange; it was quoted on 14th May at the rate of 180% of par.

In order to enable you to obtain your entitlement, please complete and return to us the enclosed request and inheritance forms together with the above-mentioned share certificates.

If you wish the new stock to be sold on your behalf and proceeds remitted to you in U.S. currency, please advise us accordingly.

We would mention that requests for the issue of entitlements of the new stock are dealt with at the end of each quarter year.

Yours faithfully,

**OTZAR HITYASHVUTH HAYEHUDIM  
JEWISH COLONIAL TRUST, LIMITED**

The history of the Jewish Colonial Trust holds great fascination for me and the activities of the Trust in the colonization of Palestine. I also am proud of the small part of my own grandfather in assisting in the Jewish Colonial Trust to be founded and capitalized.

*Anyone with additional information concerning the Jewish Colonial Trust is requested to write to Jack H. Fisher, Attorney at Law, 912 American National Bank Building, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49006.*

## **BOUND COPIES OF SHEKEL NOW READY FOR AINA MEMBERS**

Bound copies of *The Shekel*, containing Volumes III and IV, eight issues representing the years 1970 and 1971 are now ready for distribution, advises Morris Bram, president. Like its predecessor and matching blue-covered volume containing the years 1968 and 1969, the bound edition is offered by AINA at \$10.00, postpaid.

Orders with checks should be addressed to the AINA box, advises Mr. Bram. A limited number of the book with Volumes I and II are still available and may be ordered at the same time, he said. Both volumes are indexed in the final copy of the year 1971 (Volume IV, No. 4, Consecutive Issue No. 16) so that a single index is a quick reference guide to the contents of both books. The books measure 6¼ x 9¼-inches and are gold imprinted.



TOKENS OF ISRAEL  
IN FLOWER COLLECTION  
IN ILLINOIS



This 29mm aluminum token was issued by the Soap Center of Haifa, Israel in 1955 to commemorate its 15th anniversary. The owner of the Soap Center, a religious person, issued these in the value of one *zuz*, an ancient denomination in the times of the *Talmud*.

The obverse in 4 lines of Hebrew: "25 years soap center". Just below, within a double curved frame: "1930-1955". On each side is a branch of olive leaves. The obverse is enclosed by a circle of pearls.

On the reverse, the center part has two Hebrew words: "ZUZ Jubilee" within a circle of pearls. Surrounding this, the Hebrew inscription: "Wack's Soap Central Haifa", enclosed by a larger circle of pearls.

\*\*\*



The obverse of this 30mm aluminum alloy token features King Solomon, facing right. There is no inscription on this side.

Through the center of the reverse within a rectangle, the word: "SOLOMON", in large capital letters. Curved above: "KING OF THE JEWS" and curved below, the date: "1015 to 975 B.C."

Source: unknown. Readers are invited to suggest its identity.

AVNI HONORED BY AINA  
FOR SERVICE TO U.S.  
NUMISMATISTS

Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the IGCAM was presented with a specially made plaque bearing the newly created AINA emblem and message honoring his efforts on behalf of numismatists by Morris Bram, president of AINA at the final banquet of the Fourth Annual Study Tour to Israel.

The dinner was attended by nearly 100 tour members and the Israel Government executives and their wives.

In making the presentation, Mr. Bram cited the numerous instances of Avni special effort and cooperation which made the collecting efforts of numismatists throughout the world so rewarding. Avni efforts on behalf of the visiting AINA groups each year were but part of the special services personally contributed by Mr. Avni.



## LARGEST AINA GROUP



Members of the AINA tour included: Claire and Ben Abelson, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mr. Rafael Aldor, Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp.; Mr. & Mrs. J. Oliver Amos, Sidney, Ohio; Mr. & Mrs. Milton Becker, Portsmouth, Virginia; Mr. A. Samuel Berlin, Wilmington, Delaware; Mr. & Mrs. David Boehm, New York, N.Y.; Mr. & Mrs. Morris Bram, Bayside, New York; Mr. Fred W. Coops, San Bernardino, Calif; Mr. & Mrs. Will Eisner, White Plains, New York; Mr. & Mrs. Abe Freedman, Englewood, New Jersey; Mr. & Mrs. Morris Freeman, Steubenville, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. George Gilbert, Riverdale, N.Y.; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Gledhill, West Hartford, Connecticut; Mr. & Mrs. David Gottlieb, Rockville Center, New York; Mr. & Mrs. Milton Herskovitz, Hillside, New Jersey; Mrs. R. Jotz, East Orange, New Jersey; Mrs. Ethel Kanter, New York, N.Y.; Mrs. Esther Kopelman, White Plains, N.Y.; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Kramer, Sidney, Ohio; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lessuck, Livingston, New Jersey; Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Melcher, West Hartford, Conn.; Mr. & Mrs. Irving Moskovitz, Detroit, Michigan; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Pollak, White Plains, New York; Mr. & Mrs. Fred E. Roganson, Branford, Conn.; Mr. & Mrs. Max Schwartz, Miami, Florida; Mr. Robert G. Sidener, Sarasota, Florida; Mr. Benjamin Spencer, New York, N.Y.; Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Stoff, Rockville Center, N.Y.; Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Thomas, Staten Island, N.Y.; Mr. & Mrs. David B. Tolins, Jr., Maple Glen, Pennsylvania; Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Unger, Ossining, New York; Mr. Jay J. Van Grover, New York, N.Y.; Mr. & Mrs. Max Vlotkoffsky, Huntington, New York; Mr. Samuel Weiss, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Mrs. Dinah Zavalkoff, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The Fourth Annual AINA Study Study Tour of Israel has set the pace for all tours of the future. Largest to date, it also established new "firsts" for its members who made the March 1-15 trip a most memorable experience.

The tour, based primarily in Israel's

three largest cities, enjoyed daytime tours of both contemporary and ancient Israel sites and participated evenings in a series of planned activities which brought American numismatists together with fellow collectors of Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem.

Tour highlights included special



# SETS NEW TOUR RECORDS



*Departure was at 2 A. M. after a N. Y. airport fog delay; a crew-change stop in Paris gave time for a leg stretch.*



*Morris Bram (left) and Dr. Arie Kindler in the Kadman Numismatic Museum during a special presentation by Dr. Kindler to the AINA group in the Museum library.*



*First moments of the first tour day: the story of the kibbutz which held up the Egyptian Army of 15,000 for six days in 1948.*



*The National Maritime Museum, Haifa, opened before its completion by Dr. Arie L. Ben-Eli, curator, exhibited numismatica specially related to maritime history.*



*Atop the Golan Heights, the bus stops at an abandoned Syrian (Russian) tank on the heights over the Galilee.*



*Tour members Mrs. Betty Jotz and J. J. Van Grover, N. Y. see planchets (coin blanks) in the Government Mint at Jerusalem.*



*AINA tour members at the Western Wall of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. The access to the Wall had been denied to Jews who seek to pray at this important link with Judaism's past until the War of 1967 opened the Old City to people of all faiths.*

visits to the Kadman Numismatic Museum in Tel Aviv; the National Maritime Museum in Haifa; into the very production areas of the Jerusalem Mint opened for the first time

to a numismatic group of this size; and a brilliant climax with a never-to-be-forgotten dinner tendered in its honor by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation at the King



*Atop the Massada fortress originally built by Herod, AINA tour members visit a Fifth Century Byzantine Church which itself crumbled under an earthquake 400 years after the famous mass suicide of Jews who chose death in preference to slavery under the Romans.*



David Hotel in Jerusalem on the final evening prior to departure.

The 65 tour participants visited such ancient sites as Massada, the mountain stronghold where Romans could not conquer Jews who elected death to slavery; the Golan Heights captured from the Syrians in the Six Day War of recent times; and into Christianity's Moslem, and Judaism's most hallowed shrines.

Led by Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bram, the group was honored by its reception by some of Israel's most famous numismatic scholars who addressed the audience at daytime museum tours and at the evening banquets. Officers of Israeli numismatic societies, officers of the Bank of Israel, officials of the Israel government and hospitality by the Director General of the IGCAM, Yitzhak Avni, brought Americans and Izraelis into warm and close relationship which will last through the lifetimes of all participants.

The trip had four major phases; the tour south from Tel Aviv and visits to such scientific centres as the Weizmann Institute in the earliest days; the trip north through both Caesarea and Nazareth and into the Galilee and the Golan Heights for the completion of the first week; Haifa and the Mediterranean. North of Israel during the third phase; and the final phase, the trip south to Jerusalem: visits within Israel's capital and a daylong tour of Massada and the cities of the Negev desert prior to the north-to-Jerusalem trip through Hebron and Bethlehem.

Good weather; excellent accommodations; warm friendships among AINA members and their families who participated all combined to make day and evening events rich with the excitement of tourism; of learning about Israel; and of the wealth of *numismatica* to which all were exposed.

Highlights included such events as the first presentation to an American audience of the first audio-visual production of AINA, a slide-sound show on Israel's commemorative coins



*Mr. and Mrs. Irving Moskowitz, donors of this major collection of U.S. gold coins on display at the Kadman Museum.*



*At a dinner meeting with Tel Avid numismatists, Mr. and Mrs. Moskowitz announce a donation of pirate coins to the National Maritime Museum to curator Dr. Ben-Eli.*

written and produced by Ben and Claire Abelson of California.

With 1973 as Israel's 25th Anniversary Year, pressure for hotel accommodations and tourism arrangements had to be countered to assure a March visit by AINA members, some of whom have already planned to participate in the 1973 *Fifth Annual Tour*, advises Mr. Bram.

To accommodate the 65 participants of the 1972 tour, a bus caravan of two buses was maintained for the two weeks, with tour members dining together for all major meals. AINA members from all sections of the U. S. participated. Detailed reports on the trip have been appearing since the end of March in issues of *Coin World*, written by Oliver Amos, who together with his wife, was among tour guests.

## THE QUARTER SHEKEL COMES HOME

by Dov Genachowski

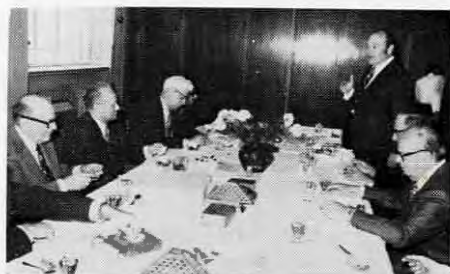
I am starting this column with a new book, and with an inordinate degree of pride. As I write I have before me one of the first copies of the Hebrew edition of the catalogue of the Bank of Israel Coin Collection, written by Arie Kindler, and published by "Keter" of Jerusalem. It is a big book in its physical dimensions: 27 x 21 cm., 140 pages, hundreds of illustrations. It is also "big" in its contents, though somebody else should write about this side of it: I had too much to do with preparing and editing the book to be unbiased.

It is much more than just a catalogue. Kindler prefaced every period with a historical-numismatic introduction, the collection of those by themselves already comprising a major work. The *Bank of Israel Collection* itself, the subject of the catalogue, is probably among the top five collections of Jewish coins. A unique feature of the book are the "gyneological" charts of Bar-Kochba coinage, showing the development of each value by types and dates. Well, I could go on and on, but I trust there will be in due time a review of this book in *The Shekel*. As I said, the Hebrew edition is now available, published by the same house responsible for the *Encyclopedia Judaica*. An English edition, for those with no Hebrew and some patience, is now in preparation.

\* \* \*

One result of a meeting the leadership of AINA had with the Governor of the Bank of Israel, Mr. Moshe Sanbar, during the March AINA trip to Israel, was a decision by the Governor to renew the issue of Hanukkah coins, starting the series again with the next time the "holiday of lights"

comes around. It took quite a persuasive effort to get this decision. The clinching argument was when the figures for Israel's exports of coins were cited. These were of special interest to Governor Sanbar, one of whose prime jobs prior to assuming the Governorship was fostering and aiding Israel's exports.



Governor Sanbar gave a lunch, at the Bank of Israel, for the AINA leadership. Present were also Chief Justice Witkon, who serves as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Design of Coins and Banknotes, and Bank of Israel officials connected with the issue of currency. Morris Bram and Ben Abelson had an "achievement" after the lunch, getting the Governor and the Chief Justice to "break the law," at least technically, by autographing mint-fresh Bank of Israel notes. It is at least against the letter of the Currency Ordinance, which prohibits defacement or misuse of currency.

\* \* \*

Still talking about coins to come, I hear that plans are afoot to have next year's issue of the "special" set of trade coins, those bearing the *Star of David* mintmark, minted *not* in the ordinary cupro-nickel alloy, light



\* \* \*

\* \* \*

IL.5 Ingathering Unc. 105; IL.5  
Herzl Unc. 120; IL.5 Seafaring Pr.  
1020; IL.5 Knesseth Unc. 120; IL.5  
"Hai" Pr. 65; IL.5 Eilat Pr. 130;

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

17

# The ALEPH BETH Page

## ...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



*Q. I am interested in obtaining information on a coin that I have had for a long time. Recently, it was explained to me, that because of the age (the coin is dated 1284) it may be very valuable. Enclosed is a drawing which I have made to the best of my ability and I will also try to describe it. It is round in shape with a small chip on the top. It could be made of brass or copper. One side has a Jewish star with a date in the center. The opposite side has three markings and the date 1284.*



*I hope that will be of some help. Thank you. F. R., Westwood, N. J.*

A. My friend's daughter recently returned from North Africa and brought me the same "old rare coin" as a gift except that mine is dated 1287. It is a 3 *fulus* piece of Morocco made in the year 1284 AH. To this Mohammedan date add 583 to get year of the Common Era. This would make your coin made in 1867 under Muhammed XVII who ruled from 1296-1290 AH (or 1859-1873 respectively). It is a peculiarity of Moroccan coinage that the AH dates almost always appear in European numerals. All copper after 1207 AH has a *Star of David* obverse, with the mint name and the date on the reverse.

The chip that you mention is common to all the coins. They are made in a "money tree." Molten copper is poured into a gang mould that may contain a dozen or more intaglio coin

moulds. When the metal hardens, the mold, not unlike a waffle iron, is opened. All the coins are connected by metal which filled the flow channels. It looks like a tree full of balloons. Each of the coins are sheared off and the scrap metal is returned to the furnace to be remolded. The spot on the edge is where it was broken off. This coin is very common and worth about fifty cents.

I'm sorry that you did not have a similar but smaller gold piece with the *Star of David* and dated 1279. That would be worth over *eight hundred dollars*. Please excuse me for using my photo rather than your drawing.

*Q. What is the meaning of the small Hebrew letters on the bottom of the reverse of the Balfour Declaration medal? PT, Buffalo, N. Y.*

A. It is the name of the designer Paul Vincze in Hebrew. Just the first letter of the first name appears. It is therefor P. Vincze in Hebrew.

*Q. What is the significance of the Roman date XV which is attached to the Menora and looks like a key in the 1960 medal of the International Congress of Local Authorities? R. H., D.D.S., Hartford, Conn.*

A. It represents the "Fifteenth Congress of the International Union of Local Authorities" (IULA) which met in November 1960 in Tel Aviv.

*Q. Am I right in stating that the Mogen David mintmark of Jerusalem was the first use of a Jewish Star on the coinage of Israel? G. S., N.Y.C.*

A. I'm afraid that you are wrong. Look at the obverse of the 1963 *Seafaring Independence Day* coin. On the smoke-stack of the modern steamer is the *Mogen David*.



# JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks



## EVEN THE COPIES ARE COPIED



Copying coins is not a new idea. In ancient times coins were copied by profiteering counterfeiters, and even by official governments (who would reduce the content without changing the exchange rate or bothering to inform the public).

During the Renaissance ancient coins were reproduced, but for entirely different reasons — admiration for the classical art of the early Roman and Greek civilizations. While these imitative coins were not originally designed as forgeries, many of them found their way into the most celebrated collections of Europe. These pieces are commonly referred to as “Paduans,” since the primary medallist responsible for their creations was Giovanni Cavino, who resided in Padua, Italy, throughout his life (c. 1500-1570). While most Paduans are copies of actual ancient Roman or Greek coins, many “fantasy” pieces were also produced in the style of the ancients.

Prominent numismatist Louis Werner has generously contributed two Paduan-type coins to the Judah Magnes Museum of Berkeley, California. Both are of the large sestertius

denomination. One has the portrait of the Emperor Titus (41-81 C.E.), along with a Judaea Capta reverse design. This is from the extensive series of Roman coins commemorating the defeat of the First Jewish Revolt (66-70 C.E.) which were issued by Emperors Vespasian (who originally commanded the Roman troops fighting in Judaea), and his sons, Titus (who captured Jerusalem in 70 C.E. and ruled the Roman Empire from 79-81 C.E.), and Domitian (ruled 81-96 C.E.).

This Judaea Capta coin of Titus is listed in the standard reference by Cohen and Madden. However characteristics of the letters in the inscription clearly mark this “coin” as a Paduan copy: the “M’s” are broad at the base and narrow at the top; the letters “PT” in “IMPT” (*IMPERIAL Titus*) are poorly formed. Richard Lawrence, in his booklet *The Paduans*, further describes the coins struck by Cavino as “usually composed of red and yellow copper, poorly alloyed;” the coin in question exhibits varying colored areas. And lastly, file marks are prominent on the edge of the coin,



Photos by Dr. Emanuel Rubin

where the roundness of the reproduction was modified to make it more closely resemble the irregularly shaped ancient coin. This exact coin is described in Lawrence as no. 37, which further tends to confirm it as one of the rare Cavino struck pieces.

The second "coin" has the identical reverse as the Titus Paduan — however it purports to have been issued by L. Aelius Verus, *who wasn't even born until after the First Jewish Revolt!* (Verus was named heir apparent by his adopted father Hadrian in 136 C.E., but died two years later before assuming the throne). Obviously this could not be a genuine ancient coin.

The Verus piece features: (1) rough surface, particularly on the obverse, (2) nearly perfectly round, and

(3) very thick. Examining the edge closely, a separation line is partially visible — clear evidence of a casting. The obverse is described in Lawrence's booklet as no. 53 (with a different reverse). Thus it appears that this is a "second generation" Paduan, cast from two "genuine" Cavino Paduans. *So even copies are copied!*

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## WEIZMANN GOLD COINS OF 1962 FOUND WITHOUT 'MEM'

by Sylvia Haffner



It has recently come to light that the Weizmann gold coins issued in 1962 have been found without the "mem." It was called to my attention that the photos in *"The History of Modern Israel's Money"* of the Weizmann set did not show the "mem." Those photos came from the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. Ltd. and were taken from the plaster models.

**BUT**, ten sets do exist without the "mem."

In checking with Mr. Yitzhak Avni the Director-General of the I.G.C.M. he has offered the following information on the sets and also wishes to advise that the Corporation is sold out of the sets.

*"The Corporation ordered the Weizmann Coins from the Bank of Israel in proof condition with the letter 'mem.' For some reason, the Berne Mint forgot to imprint the 'mem' and delivered the goods without it. Consequently the Bank of Israel returned the entire quantity to the Mint, except for ten sets which we retained. To the best of my knowledge the sets were sent somewhere in South America."*

Anyone having such a set is invited to submit their names so that a list can be compiled to see if we can locate all ten sets for the record.

Sylvia Haffner  
P. O. Box 2153 Sta. A  
La Meda, Calif. 92041



## STUDIO ROLI: A HISTORY

ROLI is the abbreviation for the names of two Israeli artists, working in partnership: Rothschild and Lippmann. Both hail from Germany (born 1919 and 1921 resp.); both arrived in Israel as young boys in the days of Nazi persecution in Germany. Gerd Rothschild arrived in 1934 with the "Youth Aliya" and spent his first two years in Kibbutz Deganya A. Zeev Lippmann in 1933 and continued his interrupted studies at the Herzl High School, Tel-Aviv and later at Reali High School, Haifa.

In 1936 the two met at the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts, in Jerusalem where both enrolled in the graphic design class, and where Rothschild taught graphic design from 1966 to 1968.

The friendship of their student days developed into a permanent partnership after their graduation in 1939. Their start as graphic designers coincided with the outbreak of World War Two. After a short period of freelancing in Haifa, they joined the British Army as volunteers. The Israel War of Independence put them into uniforms for the second time.



*Morris Bram (left) with leading Israel graphic designers Jacob Zim and Messrs. Rothschild and Lippmann of Studio ROLI.*

When Messrs. Levin-Epstein, the printing house which has printed many of Israel's stamps installed the first photo-litho outfit in the country, they commissioned the two, newly demobilized from the British Army, to design a full-color children book — each, to show off the new achievements in the field of reproduction.

To devise and to develop new types of Hebrew Alphabets was an urgent problem for the young State with Hebrew as its official language. This task turned into a pet challenge for



*The first medal struck by the State of Israel marking its Tenth Anniversary was designed by Studio ROLI.*



*Here are examples of ROLI test designs which precede actual design selection*

Studio Roli and the only book published in Israel on the subject, *Hebrew Artistic Lettering*, was originally designed by them.

Studio Roli entered the field of medals with a special silver-medal designed in 1956 for the Prime Minister, Mr. David Ben Gurion to be delivered to men who had been of special service to the country in the Sinai Campaign. Many more were to follow, among them the "Judea Capta — Israel Liberata" — the "Peace be within thy walls" — "Let us . . . make about them walls and towers" — "Ingathering of the Exiles," etc. International Bible contest coins — "one half Shekel" — the "Eilat" 5 IL "Jubilee Coin," Medals for the 4th

Maccabia and others.

For every one of the coins of the present day currency Roli has designed one side: in 1.-, 5.-, and 10.-, and 25 Agora the pictorial side; in the half-pound coin, the side of the denomination; in the one-pound coin the pictorial side again. All were awarded to Roli as the outcome of competitions. So were the 24 stamps Studio Roli designed, among them the "Knesseth" stamp, the three "Mas-sada" stamps, and the three "Victory" stamps, which were issued after the 6-Day War, the Keren Hayesod stamp, and the new regular series of landscape stamps, 7 of which have appeared to date; and the stamps printed on post cards and air letters.





*ROLI design work has covered coins, medals, stamps, books and other graphics.*

Studio Roli designs everything two dimensional (no exhibitions and displays). Among their posters are one Independence Day poster, 2-1st of May posters, "Atom for Peace" and a government tourist poster; and an International Flower Show poster. They have designed many leading trademarks and town emblems (among them Eilat and Kiryat Gat). The official State Emblem — "25 years Israel" was one of their latest prizes. Many of their better known designs are the outcome of competitions, open and closed.

In all, Studio Roli has won up to date 95 prizes in local competitions and a "Prix d'honneur" in the 2e *Bienale* in Brno 1966, (an international exhibition of book-art), and two Prizes in United Nations international stamp competitions.

Gerd Rothschild has been president of the "Graphic Designers Association of Israel" for 15 years, from 1953-1968.

Both partners have been active for years in passing on their accumulated knowledge to the new generation as teachers of their profession.

Samples of their work have appeared in the daily press, periodicals and trade-journals in many lands, from the U. S. to Japan, on the Continent and in South America. There is a rich future ahead for this talented duo.

## DISPLAY ON FIFTH AVENUE IN NEW YORK ATTRACTS STROLLER'S ATTENTION

The crowds that stroll along New York's Fifth Avenue can now take a glimpse at Israel's most recent issues of commemorative coins, State Medals and Banknotes. An attractive display of these numismatic items has recently been set up by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation on the facade of the First Israel Bank and Trust Co., located at 574 Fifth Avenue (corner of 47th).



An immediate result has been a considerable increase in Israel coin and medal sales at the Bank's premises.

## 1972 MINT-MARKED SETS RELEASED



Israel's 1972 Official Mintmarked Sets, issued by the Bank of Israel and distributed by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, was started March 1st, 1972.

The sets, mintmarked with a tiny six-pointed Star of David, are serially numbered. The denomination included are all the six current coins in circulation: 1 agora, 5, 10 and 25 agorot,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 lira (IL). In addition to the

Official Mint Market Sets, the 1972 Jerusalem Specimen Sets, in wallets, were released simultaneously.

As announced by Mr. Rafael Aldor, Director for North America of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., the mintage figure of the Official Mintmarked Sets has been considerably lowered this year: 100,000, as compared to 175,000 in 1971. The figure for the specimen sets will be determined at a later stage.

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## THE TEA AND COFFEE TOKENS OF THE STAFF OF A BUS COMPANY

by Dov Genachowski



Israel transportation tokens have acquired quite a fame during recent years. They are being catalogued, listed, researched — and of course *priced*. Their prices did rocket during the last five years or so — not always with justice. In too many cases, some of these tokens were treated as “rare,” and later supposedly newly discovered quantities of the “rare” types began to flood the markets. In other cases, the “rarity” was man-made, purposely. But I don’t want to dwell on the sordid side of the token development. I wish to report another set of “Dan” tokens, all having nothing to do with transportation.

“Dan” is the *Tel Aviv Bus Cooperative*, serving the area of the Dan region, hence its name. It grew by mergers of smaller cooperatives and bus lines, some of which got their own place in the history of transportation

tokens in Israel. Until about six years ago, “Dan” offices were housed above their old garage, on 17 Arlozorov Street in Tel Aviv, not far from the sea and from the famous hotel row of Hayarkon Street. The garage itself did not function as such for a long while, but finally even the offices were too small and too cramped for the growing cooperative. It moved to the new Hadar-Daphna complex, on the same street, in 1966.

During the first half of the Sixties, “Dan” office workers who were entitled (as is the custom in Israel) to a cup of coffee or tea every day had to seek these in coffee-houses and restaurants in the neighborhood, as the “Dan” premises did not have space for this kind of facility. Hence the issue of tokens, all carrying the “Dan” emblem; a winged wheel, the wing formed of the Hebrew word “Dan,”



carrying the inscription "Token for a cup of tea" or "Token for a cup of coffee."

These tokens were issued in two series — square and triangular, and in each series there were tea and coffee tokens. The two series came into being when "Dan" ran out of colours. In the beginning the square tokens were issued, their colours being changed every month to prevent misuse. Then the triangular tokens were used, again using monthly colours. Later this really complicated system was replaced by just stamping the token with the name of the month; and finally it was abandoned altogether.

The tokens were distributed monthly among those entitled to them, were in turn used to purchase tea or coffee around the offices, and were redeemed by the vendors at the "Dan" treasury. The whole system was abandoned after "Dan" moved to their present offices, which boasts among other things, a large cafeteria.

The square tokens were even numbered on the back, apparently for control purposes, though one hopes not that much control work was invested just on cups of tea or coffee.

Sounds complicated? Well, it is a complicated series, if anybody is concerned, because of the many colours. Those I have seen number *in toto* no less than 25 tokens, all different, as follows:

	<i>Tea</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
Square:	Grey	Grey
	Pink	Pink
	Light Green	Light Green
	Yellow	Yellow
	Blue	
Triangular:	Grey	Grey
	White	White
	Green	Green
	Blue	Light Blue
	Yellow	Yellow
	Cream	Cream
	Light Purple	Light Purple
	Pink	Purple

Obviously, I cannot say these comprise the whole series. I would guess, since

the square token came earlier and exist in a smaller number of colours which are found among the square tokens, that these are somewhat rarer than the later triangular tokens. But I would not attempt to assign rarity to the series as a whole. Around 1966 all remaining tokens were disposed by "Dan" in a simple way: throwing them in the garbage. But, evidently, some did survive, enough to start, shall we say, a series of "Transportation Food Tokens?"

### FIRST NATIONAL AINA AINA CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR 1973

The Board of Directors of the American Israel Numismatic Association has decided to hold its first national convention next May in New York City, to be hosted by the metropolitan New York Israel Numismatic Societies.

According to Morris Bram, President of A.I.N.A., the Convention will take place at the New York Sheraton Hotel (formerly Park Sheraton Hotel). Seventh Avenue and 56th St., from May 3rd to May 6, 1973. The Convention program will include an educational forum, exhibits, an auction and a dealers' bourse, as well as plenary meetings in which delegates from all affiliated Israel Numismatic Societies will participate.

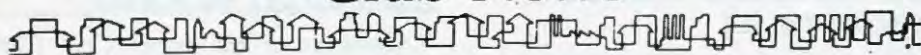
Leading coin dealers in the country have already signed up for bourse space at the Convention, which is expected to be one of the major numismatic events of the year. The auction will be handled by one of the most prestigious coin auctioneers in the U. S.

A.I.N.A.'s first convention will coincide with a dual celebration—the organization's fifth anniversary and the 25th anniversary of Israel's independence. Events marking the young State's 'silver anniversary' will climax next May, when its 25th Independence Day will be celebrated.

Another highlight of the A.I.N.A. convention will be the installation of the organization's new officers.



# Club News



## INS OF NEW YORK HOLDS ENLARGED MEETING

The highlight meeting of the Spring in New York City was held at the lush Americana Hotel with an audience of nearly 100 members and guests of the INS of NY convened to hear talks by leading Israeli officials and to share the first presentation to an American AINA audience of the first audio-visual coin show produced by AINA.

With Morris Bram, president of AINA as host, the platform was shared by Harry Schacher, president of the INS of NY, with guests Yaacov Aviad, Consul of Israel, and Rafael Aldor, North American Director for IGCAM.

Mr. Yaacov Aviad was speaking on the evening following the dramatic day-long events surrounding the attempted hijack of the Sabena aircraft which landed at Tel Aviv and its recapture by Israeli forces. He made the point that Israel was a tiny nation showing the way against efforts of international blackmailers. He reminisced of his own start as a coin collector as a youth in Jerusalem.

Mr. Aldor reported on the over-subscription by Americans of the Israeli Aviation proof coin and of the international effect of Israel's issues as measured by experiences he had just had on a visit to South America. There, small town markets had numismatic counters where Israeli trade coins and new issues were offered to local collectors.

Mr. Bram introduced the AINA show on Israel's 10 pound coins which dramatizes the events surrounding the creation of the State of Israel and episodes of her history.

Many new members were accepted that night for members, reported Mr. Schacher.

## TEXANS SEES FILMS, HOLD AUCTIONS AT RECENT MEETINGS

The films, *Border Outposts* and *The Mountains Around Jerusalem* were shown at a recent meeting of the INS of Texas in Houston. Members placed orders for the new Israel Aviation commemorative and received the Pidyon HaBen coins ordered earlier.

An auction livens proceedings at the end of each gathering.

## COLOR PHOTOS OF AINA TOUR LIVEN PITTSBURGH MEETING

Photos taken on the AINA 4th Study Tour by Sara and Morris Freeman were featured at a recent meeting of the INS of Pittsburg. Slide presentations have been especially popular with the Pittsburgh group especially since the outstanding presentation this Spring by Rabbi Leonard A. Helman who showed, *A Coin and Medal Collection of Heroes and Rogues in Jewish History*.

Regular door prizes and end-of-meeting auctions keep meetings lively.

## SAN GABRIEL CALIFORNIA GROUP HEARS ISRAEL VISITOR

Donna Sims, completing her second tour of Israel, reported on her visit at the May meeting of the INS of San Gabriel Valley of California.

A recent issue of the group's newsletter, recently named *The Olive Branch*, included a one-page feature explaining the importance of the olive tree to the history of Israel. An article on *The Medal of Valour* by Louis Friedman described the 1959 medal struck by the Israel Government.

President of the San Gabriel INS is Sally Marx. Esther Bromberg is editor and historian.



## YOUTH, 10, TELLS INS OF MASS. HOW HE FOUND A ROMAN COIN IN ISRAEL

A recent meeting of the INS of Mass. heard Dr. Bert Zuckerman present a talk on ancient coins; but his Jonathan, 10, presented a talk of his own on his experiences in Israel and his discovery of a Roman coin.

Fred Roganson, a member of the AINA 4th Study Tour group visited from Connecticut to share his experiences in Israel with the Massachusetts INS members.

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## ABELSON APPOINTS FISHGOLD TO POST

The Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles, Calif., president, Claire Abelson named Milton Fishgold as representative to the American Israel Numismatic Association; Dr. Sol Taylor to the American Numismatic Association; Val Mogensen to Numismatic Association of Southern California, and Ben Abelson, Fishgold and Nate Bromberg to Convention of International Numismatics.

She named Dr. Taylor as editor of the regular bulletin, now carrying the name of *The Scroll*.

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## NEW JERSEY SOCIETY HONORS ISRAEL STATE

The 24th anniversary of Israel's independence observed at a program at a recent meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of New Jersey, Short Hills, N. J.

Carl Rosenblum, INS president lectured on investments in coins and medals and demonstrated how charts can be used to guide the investments. An auction was held during the evening.

At a recent meeting George Gilbert, editor of *The Shekel*, spoke on coin photography, suggesting that sunlight photos in color were within the capability of most owners of better cameras.

## RABBI ILSON'S SLIDES FORM COAST PROGRAM

Members of the Israel Coin Club of San Fernando Valley, Canoga Park, Calif., viewed slides taken in Israel by Rabbi Aaron B. Ilson of the INS of Pittsburgh, Pa. This was the first west coast showing.

The May meeting heard Dr. Freibrun speak on the origin and development of the *Shekel*; slides shown covered the period of the Jewish-Roman war.

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## INS OF MARYLAND EXHIBITS AT COMMUNITY CENTER

Recent activities of the INS of Maryland include such projects as the mounting of an exhibit of Israel's coins and medals at the Jewish Community Center in Baltimore and a meeting which featured a film, *In Search of a City*.

The March meeting had as its theme: *Massada*.

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## CLEVELANDERS MEET JOINTLY WITH PHILATELISTS

Israel's *Mogen David Adom*, the equivalent of the American Red Cross, was the beneficiary of a joint meeting of the INS of Cleveland with the local Society of Israel Philatelists. Proceeds of an auction of 40 philatelic items and 10 numismatic pieces went to the *Mogen David Adom*, reports Max Gladstone in a recent issue of the INS publication, *The Agora*.

An earlier meeting featured a presentation by Jack Davidson who told the story behind five Israel Lapel Pins. A taped recording, smuggled out of Russia, was played so that the INS members and their guests at the meeting could hear Russian Jews singing. The tape made clear the purposes of the *Let My People Go* coin.



## HOW MANY SHEKELS TO A TALENT?

by Joseph Sporn

Our modern world owes its sixty minute hour and three hundred and sixty degree circle to the ancient Babylonian custom of counting in sixties. The Babylonian system of weight measures comprising *talents*, *minas* and *shekels* was adopted throughout the Near East, i. e., sixty *shekels* to the *mina* and sixty *minas* to the *talent* (3600 *shekels* = 1 *talent*).

However, we read in Exodus 38: 25, 26: "*And the silver of them that were numbered was a hundred talents and a thousand seven hundred and three-score and fifteen shekels, a beka a head, that is, half a shekel, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifteen men*" — or 3000 *shekels* to the *talent*. Despite this apparent historical contradiction, modern archeology has proved the Bible was right.

The old time Canaanites, while enemies of the Israelites, were also in fact kissing cousins, exchanging not only wives, to the prophets dismay, but also language and alphabet, to the archeologists' delight. The city of Ugarit in Canaan has been thoroughly studied with results of incredible relevance to Biblical literature, Jewish laws (*kashruth*, for example) and, more pertinent to this paper, weights and measures. Lo, their *talent* did comprise 3000 *shekels*! Further, we know the early Greeks got their weights from the Canaanites (early Phoenicians). The Greeks used a smaller weight, the *drachm* and reckoned it at 6000 to the *talent*. The *drachm* therefore was equal to the *beka*, or the *half-shekel*. Score two for the Bible!

Foreign exchange in those times had the familiar complications caused by sovereign states assigning varying silver quantities to their various basic

units. Thus, the Ugarit *shekel* weighed 9.4 grams, while the Israelite *shekel* weighed 11.4 grams. The Egyptians weighed in with a unit of 8.8 grams while still keeping the same 3000 units to the *talent*. Today, we have similar problems with Troy and Avoirdupois *ounces* and *pounds*, American and British *tons* and *gallons*. American and Canadian *dollars*, etc.

If we advance now more than a thousand years from Canaanite times to the more familiar first century C.E., we find the only coins we know of actually stamped as *shekels*. These were issued during the First Jewish-Roman War of 66-70 and we learn the *shekel* now equaled about 14 grams. During the Second Jewish-Roman War, Simon Bar Kochba took Roman *tetradrachms* of similar weight, 14 grams, and stamped them as Jewish *shekels*. He also took over the Roman *denarius* of about 3.3 grams and we call them *quarter-shekels*.

The record today is clear that originally in Babylon, the *talent* did equal 3600 *shekels*, but along the Mediterranean Coast, it came to 3000 *shekels*. When the Israelites developed the *beka*, or *half-shekel*, of 100 to the *mina*, they had what was perhaps the world's first decimal system of coinage. This idea of decimal equations may in fact be the *raison d'être* for the 3000 *shekel* system in the first place.

That the old belief in the ratio of 3600 *shekels* to the *talent* does nevertheless still persist today even among experts is demonstrated by an article in the *Journal of Israel Numismatics* (Vol. I, no 5) in which this statement appears. Perhaps it behooves numismatists in the field of ancient coins to read Biblical archeology!



## ILLINOIS INS MEMBER PREPARES A BRIEF REVIEW OF EARLIEST COIN HISTORY

by Saul B. Needleman

The question of the "first" Jewish coin has recently been resolved by religious and scientific study. Coins from many ancient lands have been in current usage at different periods of Judaeon history, some even minted in Jerusalem or Caesarea, but none represents a truly *Jewish* coin by design or authorization.

Coinage first appeared about 700 BCE and spread over the next 200 years. It is doubtful whether independent coinage appeared in Judaea until much later. In 586 the Babylonians destroyed the First Temple and led Judaea into captivity. Cyrus, King of Persia, was victorious over the Babylonians in 538 and permitted the Return of the Jewish exiles to The Land. Persian control remained until Alexander the Great in 332 which brought Hellenism to Judaea. With his death in 323, Judaea came under the control of the Greek Ptolemaic kingdom of Egypt and finally passed to the Greek Seleucids in 198 BCE.

Already new powers were rising to challenge Seleucid rule: Rome, Armenia and Parthia. To consolidate his hold on The Land, Antiochus IV Epiphanes intervened into the internal affairs of Judaea, including a ban on Judaism. As a result of these actions, the populace revolted under the leadership of Mattathias the Hasmonean of Modi'in in 168 BCE.

Finally in 138, Antiochus VI Sidetes issued to Simon the decree:

*"I give thee leave to coin money for thy country with thine own stamp."*

Though the Hasmoneans continued to pay tribute to the Seleucids at least

to 129 BCE, an independent Jewish state existed in Judaea from then until the Roman conquest.

Against this background of almost constant subjugation to other lands remains the question of the first Jewish coin. A number of shekel types have been attributed to Simon. It is now generally agreed that he could not have minted coins, having been murdered within three months of the decree. The coins thought to be his are now placed in the period of the First Revolt. Thus, the first coins of the Hasmonean kingdom are the small bronze leptas of John Hyrcanus I.

There have now been described a series of four coins, mostly unique, which derive from the Persian satrapy under Nehemiah, governor of Judaea in 444 BCE. These are of 3 basic types:

1. Falcon with spread wings facing inscription: YEHUD
2. Owl standing with inscription: YEHUD or HEZEKIAH
3. Deity seated on winged wheel holding falcon with inscription: YEHUD

These then represent the first coins issued under Jewish authority for use by Jews in Judaea.

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*Editor's Note: While The Shekel is a firm believer in the exchange of numismatic ideas, it is the editorial opinion that coins with animate subjects such as those illustrated above would preclude the coinage from being Jewish coinage because of religious tenets. We do agree that these were Persian coins under a Persian satrap circulated in Judaea among Jews and others.*



# AMENDED LISTING OF PRESENTATION MEDALS OF ISRAEL

by Sylvia Haffner

The following is an amended listing on the Presentation and Private Medals. Medals have been discovered in metals other than those listed in *The History of Modern Israel's Money*, 1970. Other varieties may

exist and will be listed when they are verified. Those formerly listed in bronze and now listed in Tombac will weigh about 20 grams less than the listing for the bronze medals.

## PRESENTATION MEDAL CHART PM-NUMBERS

NO.	MEDAL	Brass	Copper	Bronze	Tombac	Silver	Gold
A1	Sinai Campaign, 1957			X		X	
1	B'nai-B'rith, 1959		X				
2	1st Harp, 1959		X		X		
3	Hadassah, 1960			X			
4	Nahariva, 1960	X					
5	Local Authorities, 1960			X			
6	3rd Violoncello, 1961			X	X	X	
7	Shavit "TIL", 1961			X		X	
8	TSVA Hagana, 1961					X	X
9	Medical Society, 1962			X		X	
10	Tourism, 1962			X		X	X
10c	Tourism, 1966				X		
11	Remembrance, 1963			X	X		
12	Heb. Union College, 1963			X			
13	Z. O. A., 1963			X			
14	Israel Festival, 1963			X		X	
15	Bank of Israel, 1964			X		X	
16	Hadassah-Dentistry, 1964			X			
17	Israel Festival, 1964				X	X-pl	
18	Israel Festival, 1965				X	X-pl	
19	B'nai-B'rith, 1965				X		
20	State of Israel Bonds, 1965				X	X	
21	Hebrew University, 1965				X	X	
22	3rd Harp, 1965				X		
23	Public Transportation, 1965				X		
24	Yad Va-Shem, 1965				X	X	
25	Philharmonic Orchestra, 1966			X		X	
26	Ashdod Port, 1966				X		
27	Hod Hasaron, 1966				X		
28	Israel-Canada, 1967					X-ni	
29	Paratroops-Jerusalem, 1967			X			
30	Z. O. A., 1967				X		
31	Invalids Olympics, 1968				XX	X-pl	X-pl
32	Levi Eshkol, 1968			X		X	
33	Gideonim, 1968				X		
34	4th Bible, 1969				X	X	X
35	Jerusalem-Restoration, 1969				X		
36	Petroleum, 1966			X			
37	Press Institute, 1961			X			
38	El Al, 1969					X	



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

the-spot negotiation with a number of travel agencies. Do you plan to join one of the Study Tours of the Future? Don't delay; ask any member of the Fourth Tour why!

The March group set a pace and established records which it will be difficult to surpass. This group was the first ever to be permitted into the actual production area of the Jerusalem Mint; first to walk in to the National Maritime Museum before its doors opened; first to see the initial AINA audio-visual project developed by two of America's most exciting numismatic personalities, Claire and Ben Abelson of California, etc.

The trip's enthusiasm began from the first moments that touring actually started in the Holy Land: a visit to an orange packing plant where all were soon enjoying Jaffa oranges, many for the first time.

And no one will forget the final moments of the tour: a banquet at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem where I was honored by a specially presented gold medal specially created for the event by the Israel Government Coin and Medals Corporation's top executive: the incomparable Yitzhak Avni who personally made the presentation to me, a moment I will never forget. Elsewhere in this issue is a photograph of AINA's own tribute to the international giant of numismatics: a unique plaque for his home or office wall.

The first Board of Directors meeting following the return of our group had its own moment of excitement: the Board created a LIFE Membership in AINA. It is \$100.00 for YOU to be a Life Member.

I await your checks with great enthusiasm, gentlemen and ladies.

Cordially,  
Morris Bram

## U.S. TEAM FINDS COINS IN HEBRON DIG

Coins, pottery and human bones have been found at the site of King David's capital of Hebron, according to Professor Philip C. Hammond of the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, reports *Coin World*.

The coins, pottery and other finds are presently undergoing laboratory analysis on the Utah campus as excavations on the 5,500-year old site have been temporarily halted.

Professor Hammond characterizes the site as the oldest continuously occupied city in the world. He said: "We are paralleling the Biblical record by scientific means. We are uncovering the history of the Bible in archeology." The site is also the burial place of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph.

In four years, he reports that his team has found 1,000 layers of civilization dating back to the most primitive agriculture eras. "There are about five more seasons of digging left to be done before the whole story of the ancient city can be told," Professor Hammond indicates.

He notes that a mosque now stands over the cave at Machpela, purchased from a Hebron sheep rancher by Abraham, as related in Genesis. "The site is sacred to both Moslems and Jews and anyone disturbing the graves of the ancient prophets would be guilty of desecrating of holy places," Professor Hammond concluded.

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## HOARD OF COINS IN HAIFA

*Continued from Back Cover*

Dr. Algavish said that the site where the treasure was found is that of ancient Haifa. Its remnants are buried underneath a heavy layer of earth, probably filled in when the port was constructed.

Added Dov Genachowski from Israel, "These coins were from the period of the last revolt of the Jewish community in Palestine until modern times."



# ISRAEL HONORS AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY IN COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

14th IN SERIES OF 10-POUND COINS



The fourteenth coin in the series of commemorative sterling silver coins which started in 1958 honors Israel's Aviation, announced the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation. Bearing a face value of IL 10, 50,000 BU coins have been mint-marked with a tiny Star of David; 15,000 Proof coins are marked "mem." All have been minted by the Government Mint in Jerusalem.

## *Description of the coin*

**Obverse:** On the rim, to the left, the motto of the coin in Hebrew "Israel Aviation." In the field, the design of an aircraft in motion from right to left: The wings and body suggest a seven-branched candelabrum. On the rim in the center right, the mint-mark, the Star of David.

**Reverse:** In the center, the face value, 10 Israel Lirot. The theme of aerospace reappears in the cipher 1 which is designed to suggest a rocket moving upwards. On the rim, above, the word "Israel" in Hebrew and English. Israel in Arabic appears in the lower rim together with the year — 1972, and its equivalent in Hebrew letters.

On the edge, the Hebrew inscription: 24th year of the State of Israel.

Designed by Roli.

*Details of the coin*

Face value: IL 10

Metal: Silver 900

Diameter: 37 mm

Weight: 26 gm

Quantity:

50,000 BU coins, mint-marked with a tiny Star of David.

15,000 Proof Coins, marks "mem".

Minted by the Government Mint in Jerusalem.

The BU 1972 Israel Aviation coin has been given catalog number C/163 and is offered at \$7.25. The proof is catalog number C/164 and is offered at \$14.50. When ordered from the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation (850 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022), postage of 50c is required for each coin. A limit of two proof coins per order was announced by the IGCAM.

Early announcements indicated that the American sales had exceeded the available proof coins.



*Photograph from HA'ARETZ*

## ANCIENT COIN CACHE FOUND IN HAIFA DATES TO 602-610 AD

HAIFA. — Police have mounted guard at the site of an ancient gold cache here, reported the *Jerusalem Post*.

A "gold rush" brought hundreds of residents of the Rakevet quarters in Haifa West and the building workers on the Rambam Hospital construction site to the western end of the port area last Wednesday. News of the discovery of a hoard of ancient gold coins swept the area like a brush fire.

A bulldozer digging a drainage ditch uncovered and scattered the hoard. Some building workers saw the glittering coins, and within minutes the place was black with gold diggers who breathlessly poked with their hands in the dust, spurred by the success of some who had found coins.

The operator of the bulldozer was powerless to restrain the crowd, swelled by the hospital construction workers nearby. Only after the arrival of police did the scrimmage stop, but, by then, dozens of coins were gone.

Constables continued to dig and found some 91 coins, all of the same type. They were coined by the Byzantine Emperor Phocas, who ruled from 602 to 610. According to the Curator of the City Museum of Ancient Art, Dr. Josef Algavish, Phocas, a general, had seized power by murdering Emperor Mauritius in 602. A fanatical Christian, he ordered all Jews in his realm to be baptized.

When the Parthians crossed the Euphrates and invaded the Byzantine Empire from the east, the Jews of Israel reacted by an insurrection against Byzantium. They were encouraged by the Persians, took over Shikmona, the thriving port town that ancient Haifa had become, but they failed in their attempt to occupy Tyre.

Meanwhile, Phocas himself was murdered, and in the disorders the Persians, in 614, four years after his death, overran Israel and took Jerusalem, a severe blow for Byzantium. Only 15 years later was it able to retake Israel.

The coins are pure, 24-carat gold, and bear the profile of Phocas. They are said to be worth over IL200 each among collectors.

*Continued on page 32*